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SACRAMENTO WOMAN CONCEALS HER JOB TO STEAL MORE THAN \$120,000 IN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that BRENDA MECHE ALEXANDER, 51, of Sacramento pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Morrison C. England Jr. to stealing U.S. Social Security Administration funds.

This case is the product of an investigation by the U. S. Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, ALEXANDER admitted this morning that from April 1997 through April 2006 she unlawfully claimed to be unemployed in order to receive social security benefits. Specifically, she applied for and received social security administration disability benefits that she would have been ineligible for had she revealed her work earnings. By hiding her employment, she fraudulently obtained more than \$120,000 in social security funds. According to the plea agreement in this case, ALEXANDER will make full restitution to the United States for her theft of Social Security Administration funds.

ALEXANDER is scheduled to be sentenced on April 30, 2009. The maximum penalty she faces is 10 years in prison, a three-year term of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

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